

Lasson Draw Unit
Northwest Manti Wildlife Management Area
Habitat Management Plan Summary

Primary Purpose of WMA: To preserve and protect big game winter range and wintering animals, and reduce deer and elk depredation on surrounding private property.

Wildlife Species: Mule deer, elk, greater sage-grouse (historically), Rio Grande turkey, neotropical migratory birds, and bald eagle.

Habitat Conditions/Problems: Development of private lands adjacent to the Lasson Draw unit leads to fragmentation and destruction of winter habitat and increased vehicle trespass. Potential disturbance to wintering wildlife can occur during seasonal closures by vehicle trespass and recreation activities such as jack rabbit hunting and antler hunting. Exploratory oil and gas well activity on the unit and adjacent private and USFS administered lands, could potentially fragment big game winter habitat, and increase disturbance and harassment to wintering big game. Non-functional interior fences are a hazard to deer and elk. Deeply incised streambeds in Hjorth and Dry Canyons result in bank failures, which add large amounts of sediments to the Thistle Creek/Spanish Fork River drainage. Noxious weeds including thistle and whitetop are an annual problem. Future invasion of jointed goatgrass and Russian knapweed and other noxious or invasive weeds are a concern.

Access Plan: Negotiate agreement with USFS to close illegal roads on forest property that enter the unit along the east side. Implement and enforce seasonal vehicle closure from December 1 through April 30 annually. Install parking lots and horse gates off of Highway 89 to facilitate safe access to the unit. Repair and modify gates and fences to reduce human and livestock trespass from access points and adjacent private lands.

Maintenance Activities (Phase 1): Annual inspection and repair of 12-mile perimeter fence. Lock gates during seasonal vehicle closures, and maintain existing road closures to protect habitat, avoid disturbance to wintering wildlife, and minimize creation of new unauthorized roads. Grade roads, parking lots and other access points as needed. Maintain boundary signs and main entrance sign to identify ownership. Repair and rebuild fence around wetland area.

Habitat Improvement (Phase 2):

- The southwest portion of the unit, which burned in 1999, needs to be rehabilitated to achieve winter range goals.
- Pinyon-juniper encroachment on UDWR land should be controlled.
- Install a cross fence near Hjorth Canyon to divide the unit into two pastures to improve grazing management.
- Greenstrips should be planted at select locations to prevent and reduce the spread of wildfire and to enhance range forage conditions.
- Permanent water developments will not be constructed on this unit.

**Lasson Draw Unit
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Habitat Management Plan**

I. Background Information

Property Description

The Lasson Draw unit of the Northwest Manti Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is a 3,308 acre parcel located just north of Indianola, on the east side of State Highway 89, in south Utah County (Appendix A, Map 1). It is bordered on the south by private land in Sanpete and Utah Counties, on the west by private land and Highway 89, and on the north and east by the Manti-Lasal National Forest (Appendix A, Map 2). The Spencer Fork unit of the North Nebo WMA lies west of the Lasson Draw unit. The legal description is listed in Appendix B.

Encumbrances

- **Minerals**
 - Mineral, oil and gas rights, except sand and gravel rights, were retained by all former property owners.
- **Water rights/shares**
 - DWR acquired water rights appurtenant to the lands, but these were not specified in the deeds. Stock watering rights from Dry Creek were acquired with the acquisition of the north part of the unit (Section 18).
- **Easements/ROW's/MOU's**
 - Questar Pipeline Company has a right-of-way to construct, install, maintain, and operate a natural gas transmission pipeline known as the "104 Pipeline". A buried distribution pipeline also extends from the 104 Pipeline to a facility just south of and adjacent to the unit in the NE corner of Section 5.
 - In 2006, Ansbro Petroleum was approved for a right-of-way to improve 0.73 miles of existing road and construct an additional 0.43 miles of new road through section 33 to access an exploratory well being drilled on adjacent USFS lands in section 28. In the fall of 2006, the exploratory well was capped and all roads that were disturbed within the ROW were reclaimed according to the ROW agreement.
 - In 2008, Anschutz Petroleum was approved for a right-of-way to improve 1.47 miles of existing road and construct 0.61 miles of new road in sections 19 and 20 to access an exploratory well being drilled on adjacent USFS lands. The exploratory well was capped in the summer of 2008 and all roads that were disturbed within the ROW were reclaimed according to the ROW agreement.

Grazing

The Division will use grazing as a management tool to accomplish management goals and objectives for achieving desired wildlife habitat conditions. Refer to the livestock grazing section of this plan for specific information on the grazing program for the Lasson Draw unit.

Land Acquisition History

The Lasson Draw unit was purchased in 1976 from Lasson Land & Investment Co. (Calvin, Bernard, Callice, Mary, and Richard Lasson), Max & Rela Depew, and Wendell Howard & Nellie L. Barney, and in 1984 from Highland View (Shekeyah) Ranch. Water rights and appurtenances to the properties were also acquired at the time of purchase. Federal Aid Grant #W-119-L was used to acquire this parcel.

Historic Uses

This unit has historically been grazed by livestock, and is a popular hunting, camping and recreation area for local residents.

Purpose of Division Ownership

The Lasson Draw unit was purchased to protect big game winter range and wintering animals, and to reduce deer and elk depredation on surrounding private lands. Lasson Draw is one of the most important big game wintering areas on the North Manti unit (16B) and typically winters hundreds of deer and elk annually.

Key Wildlife Species Occurring on the WMA

The Lasson Draw unit provides crucial winter habitat for mule deer and elk. In the winter of 1999-2000, the UDWR introduced Rio Grande turkeys in Hjorth Canyon. Historically, Lasson Draw was inhabited by sage grouse and a historic lek is located on the unit. Bald eagles have roosted in the area regularly during the winter. Neotropical migrant birds, including several Partners-In-Flight (PIF) species of concern, are found on the unit as well.

Public Recreation Opportunities and Restrictions

The Lasson Draw unit offers a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities including hunting, wildlife viewing, camping, and hiking. Seasonal road closures restricting all motorized vehicle access will be enforced on this unit from December 1 through April 30 to protect wintering wildlife and reduce damage to critical habitats. WMA visitors are required to pack out all garbage. Camping is permitted on this unit according to the Division's Land Use Rule which allows camping for up to 14 consecutive days unless posted for a different duration (R657-28-4,l). Camping will be allowed in existing parking areas only and must comply with the stipulations outlined in the access management plan for this unit (Appendix C). Open fires will be allowed on the Lasson Draw unit, but this activity is subject to county, state and federal fire policies and guidelines including closures during hazardous fire conditions. Activities that do not promote or protect the goals and objectives of the unit will be prohibited, specifically those that disturb or harass wildlife and their habitats.

Conservation Partners Involved in Acquisition

The Division partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire the Lasson Draw unit through Federal Aid Grant #W-119-L. As stated in the grant, the unit was acquired for the protection of big game winter range and wintering animals.

II. Property Inventory

Existing Capital Improvements

Two public parking areas were constructed and graveled at the Questar Pipeline in 1999. The parking areas allow access to the unit while preventing unauthorized vehicle travel along the pipeline corridor. Three additional parking/camping areas were constructed adjacent to Highway 89 between 2002 and 2007. These parking areas contain horse gates which allow equestrian access during the seasonal motorized vehicle closure. An additional parking/camping area was constructed in 2008 in Hjorth Canyon. The entire unit is fenced and gated. The fence on the southwest side of the unit was replaced after the 1999 fire while the east boundary fence requires annual maintenance. Several interior fences exist but are in poor condition. No water developments exist on the property.

Cultural Resources

- Cultural Resource Report No.00-39 was done in September 2000 for a single 2-D seismic line beginning just east of Birdseye and proceeding south near Indianola. The survey was conducted by JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc. of Springville, Utah. One historic Euro-American campsite was documented on top of a high narrow ridge, containing about 110 artifacts including cans, ceramic fragments, and other pieces, and dating from 1910-1948. The site, number 42UT1141, was probably utilized for woodcutting or hunting activities.
- Montgomery Archaeological Consultants completed a cultural resources inventory in the fall of 2004 for a proposed oil and gas exploratory well on adjacent USFS lands in section 28. A total of 460 acres along the proposed access route to the well site were inventoried, of which 150 acres were within Section 33 of the Lasson Draw unit. The Montgomery Inventory resulted in no cultural resources being found.

Sensitive Species

The western toad (*Bufo boreas*) and Greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) are state species of concern that have historically occurred within the Lasson Draw unit. In recent years, Greater sage-grouse have been observed near Indianola, which is not far from the unit. Leatherside chub (*Gila copei*), a state sensitive species of concern is found in Thistle Creek, just south and west of Lasson Draw.

Important Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Crucial winter ranges for mule deer and elk are found within the sagebrush and pinyon-juniper zones. The Lasson Draw unit lies within historic brood and winter habitat for Greater sage-grouse, and a historic sage grouse lek also occurs on this parcel. The big sagebrush and mountain brush zones provide important breeding and nesting habitat for neotropical migratory birds.

General Condition of Habitats

The Lasson Draw unit lies within a mosaic of sagebrush, rabbitbrush, serviceberry, bitterbrush and pinyon/juniper habitats. Oakbrush occurs in the upper draws on the north and east portions of the property adjacent to U.S. Forest Service lands. Mountain mahogany along southeastern aspects provides excellent winter browse. The Lasson Draw unit generally shows fair to good range and watershed conditions. Periods of extended drought result in some decline in overall production and vigor of vegetation. The unit offers highly palatable browse and grass species for wintering mule deer and elk, and plentiful hard and soft mast for turkey forage. During mild winters, mule deer and elk have been able to winter at higher elevations, lessening the impact to vegetation on critical areas at lower elevations. Shrubs are heavily browsed by wintering big game, and are scarce in thick juniper stands. The topography of the unit consists of draws and ridges. South-facing slopes bare off during winter months exposing forage to wildlife. In past years, chaining projects on the north portion of the property reduced pinyon and juniper trees which have improved wildlife habitat.

The Division's range trend program monitors habitat conditions statewide by sampling permanently placed vegetation transects that have been established in key areas. Transects are read on a 5-year rotational schedule based upon the Division's five administrative regions. Three of these transects are found on the Lasson Draw unit: 16B-1 (Long Ridge South), 16B-2 (Long Ridge North), and 16B-3 (Rocky Hollow). These studies sample mountain big sagebrush and mountain brush communities and were established in 1989, and re-read in 1997, 2002, and 2007. They are scheduled to be re-sampled every 5 years. Statewide range trend data and digital photographs for specific sites can be found at the following web address: <http://wildlife.utah.gov/range/>.

In general terms, range trend data show stable soil and browse trends on these three sites. However, herbaceous species are showing a declining trend due to the increase of cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and other winter annuals. A continued increase in annuals species could result in lower reproduction of browse populations, a decline in perennial grasses and forbs, and increase the threat of wildfire on the unit. Strategies to address these issues are discussed in the habitat improvement section of this plan.

Two intermittent streams are located in Dry and Hjorth Canyons. Both streams sustained dramatic erosion during the "flood years" in the early 1980's and 1990's, resulting in stream channels which are deeply incised with shear banks. Both streambeds are beginning to revegetate.

A 1999 burn in the southwest corner of the unit was reseeded early in the spring of 2000 with a mixture of Wyoming big sagebrush, bitterbrush, four-wing saltbush, bee plant, small burnet, mountain rye, timothy, sainfoin and cicer milkvetch. However, probably due to drought conditions, the seeding has not been successful. Thistle and white top can be found along roadways and trails. Russian knapweed is rapidly spreading throughout nearby private and USFS lands in northern Sanpete County, and is a real threat to this parcel.

Habitat Limitations

West and south-facing slopes are heavily utilized by deer and elk during winter months. Some of these slopes are showing a decrease in the density and vigor of browse, and revegetation is difficult due to high evaporation, shallow soils, and high soil temperatures. The abundance of cheatgrass in some areas also increases competition with the preferred browse species and makes shrub reproduction difficult. Shrub plantings and revegetation efforts will need to be selected carefully. Deeply incised streambeds in Hjorth and Dry Canyons result in bank failures and continued bank instability, which has the potential to add large amounts of sediments to the Thistle Creek drainage.

Human Use-Related Problems

The Lasson Draw unit has become a high public use area due to its close proximity to the Wasatch Front, conversion of adjacent lands to subdivisions, and the increasing popularity of OHV's. Such use has led to a sharp increase in the creation of unauthorized trails and roads in many draws, along ridgelines, and along the pipeline corridor. The creation of roads results in fragmentation and destruction of habitat and an increase in wildlife harassment. During critical winter months, disturbance can cause wildlife to move to less desirable habitats and/or an increase in winter mortality due to stress. Winter/early spring mountain lion hunting, and the associated use of vehicles often tear up wet roads. Antler hunting with OHV's has resulted in vehicular trespass during the seasonal closure as well as cut fences, road damage, and habitat loss due to the creation of numerous unauthorized trails as antler hunters drive in grid patterns through the sagebrush in search of antlers. In 1999, a wildfire burned through the southwest corner of the unit and new firebreak "roads" were made to access the fire and control it. Though reseeded, these areas must be allowed to revegetate and not become permanent roads.

Adjacent Land Uses and Potential Impact

Land bordering the Lasson Draw unit to the north and east is managed by the Manti-LaSal National Forest, Sanpete Ranger District and land uses are generally compatible with Division goals. Sheep grazing is allowed on the north, and cattle grazing occurs on lands to the east. Lands adjacent to the unit on the west and south are privately owned and current use consists of livestock grazing, irrigated pasture, dry land farms, and housing developments. Adjacent private agricultural lands are receiving increasing market-driven pressures to convert to housing subdivisions. In recent years, mineral exploration has increased on and adjacent to the Lasson Draw unit. If productive mineral resources are found, future mineral extraction activities could have a major impact on the Lasson Draw unit.

III. Management Goals and Objectives

Management of the Lasson Draw unit will take into account the goals, objectives, and strategies of other Division planning efforts. These other plans are briefly discussed below.

UDWR Strategic Plan (2005-2010)

The management of the Lasson Draw unit has relevance to the following goals and objectives outlined in the Division's most current strategic plan:

Resource Goal: Expand wildlife populations and conserve sensitive species by protecting and improving wildlife habitat.

- *Objective R1: Protect existing wildlife habitat and improve 500,000 acres of critical habitats and watersheds throughout the state by 2010.*
- *Objective R2: Increase fish and game populations to meet management plan objectives and expand quality fishing and hunting opportunities.*
- *Objective R3: Conserve sensitive species to prevent them from being listed as threatened or endangered.*

Constituency Goal: Achieve broad-based support for Division programs and budgets by demonstrating the value of wildlife to all citizens of Utah.

- *Objective C2: Improve coordination with organizations, public officials, private landowners, industry, and government agencies to obtain support for Division programs.*

These goals and objectives will be achieved through a variety of measures specified in the property and habitat management sections of this plan and include development and maintenance activities, habitat improvements, access management, fire management, and livestock grazing. Current and future partnerships and cooperative efforts will also aid the Division in addressing and reaching these goals and objectives. An example of this is the Division's participation in local Coordinated Weed Management Area's (CWMA's) and in watershed planning efforts.

Wildlife Action Plan

The most recent Wildlife Action Plan, also known as the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS), was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and approved in 2005. This plan is effective until 2015 or when revisions are needed. The CWCS provides a framework for the planning, cooperation, coordination, and implementation of conservation activities throughout the state. This plan is composed of the following major elements:

- Approach for including the public, partners, and stakeholders; addresses the mission and authority of partners
- Outlines the effort to coordinate the CWCS with other plans
- Identifies species in greatest need of conservation and provides information about the abundance, distribution, and threats to these species
- Identifies priority habitats and discusses the problems, threats, and conservation needs for these habitats
- Discusses plans for monitoring and determining conservation success.

Wildlife Species Management Plans

The Lasson Draw unit lies within the boundaries of herd unit 16, Central Mountains. Mule deer and elk management plans were completed for this unit in 2006 and 2008 respectively. The management of this unit will address the limiting factors and habitat needs identified in those plans and seek to implement habitat management strategies that are needed to reach population objectives. Revisions to these plans are typically done every 5 years, and will be incorporated into the management of the unit as needed.

IV. Strategies for Property Management

Development Activities

- Establish property boundary
 - Survey needs: Resolve property boundary discrepancies in SW quarter of Section 18, T11S, R4E, SLB&M and install boundary fence and signs.
- Boundary fence needs
 - Install and/or repair fence along east boundary of unit to manage livestock and OHV trespass.
- Sign needs
 - Install one 4'x8' main entrance sign at the south entrance.
 - Install property boundary signs along entire perimeter.
 - Install seasonal motorized vehicle closure signs at main access points.
 - Install signs that indicate roads and trails that are open to OHV use.
- Facilities
 - Remove or repair non-functional cross fences as necessary.
 - Construct new parking areas as needed.

Annual Maintenance Activities

- Fence maintenance: Maintenance of perimeter fence and gates, and evaluate the need for interior fences in sections 18 and 29. Repair or remove old non-functioning fences.
- Road maintenance/closures: Maintain existing road closures to protect habitat and reduce the creation and use of unauthorized trails and roads. Grade existing roads as needed. Install appropriate signs indicating roads that are open to vehicle use. Unauthorized trails and roads will be closed, signed, and rehabilitated as needed.
- Parking areas: Maintain existing parking areas to restrict and control motorized vehicle traffic or other access to the WMA. Horse gates have been installed at parking areas to allow horseback access to the WMA during the seasonal closure for motorized vehicles.
- Noxious weed control: noxious weeds will be monitored and treated by all available and appropriate methods including but not limited to chemical, biological, and mechanical means. Require construction vehicles to be clean of weed seeds before entry onto property. Post weed education signs at entrances to property as needed. Work cooperatively with the San Pitch CWMA (Coordinated Weed Management Area) to control weeds on the Lasson Draw unit and surrounding lands.
- Sign replacement: Maintain boundary signs as well as a main entrance sign to identify ownership.

Zoning and Land Use Ordinances

The Lasson Draw unit lies within Utah County's Critical Environment Zone classification (CE-1). Wildlife habitat, specifically big game winter range, is compatible with the Critical Environment Zone designation for this area.

V. Strategies for Habitat Management

Unit Management Plans for Wildlife Species

Strategies for habitat management will be consistent with those outlined in the deer and elk management plans for this unit and include:

- Continue to improve and restore sagebrush steppe habitats critical to deer according to DWR's Habitat Initiative. Cooperate with federal land management agencies and private landowners in carrying out habitat improvements such as reseedings, controlled burns, water developments etc. on public and private lands.
- Work toward long term habitat protection and preservation through the use of agreements with federal agencies, local governments and the use of Conservation Easements etc. on private lands.
- Continue to monitor the permanent range condition and trend studies located on the unit.

Habitat Improvement Plan

- Assess and implement revegetation efforts on the burn area in Section 32, T11S, R4E, and other sensitive areas which need enhancement. Primary goal will be to re-establish shrubs into the community which were lost following the burn.
- Control pinyon-juniper encroachment to enhance range conditions with appropriate methods. Previously treated areas such as chainings will be identified and maintenance treatments performed where needed.
- Replace, rebuild and maintain UDWR/USFS boundary fences to control livestock.
- To improve grazing management, install a cross fence near Hjorth Canyon to divide the unit into two pastures.
- Plant greenstrips at selected locations (e.g. along roads and linear corridors) to control the spread of wildfire and to enhance range forage conditions.
- Water developments may be pursued if they will assist the Division with the grazing management plan for this unit. Water developments that would encourage year round use of the Lasson Draw unit by big game will not be pursued.
- Livestock grazing will be used as a management tool to improve range conditions and wildlife habitat.
- Implement recommendations to decrease erosion and improve ecosystem function along drainage corridors.

Access Management Plan

The access management plan for this unit is included in Appendix C. The access management plan includes a map of authorized roads that occur on the property, their designation, and a discussion of how this plan will assist in achieving the goals and objectives of the Lasson Draw unit.

Fire Management Plan

All activities dealing with wild and prescribed fire will be coordinated with the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (DFFSL) according to guidelines established in the Memorandum of Understanding (2005) between DWR and DFFSL. Fire management activities include:

- When prescribed fire is needed as a habitat management tool, DWR will provide all applicable information to DFFSL to ensure burn plans are complete and submitted by deadlines.
- Grazing will be used as a tool to reduce fuel loads and lessen the threat of wildfires on the Lasson Draw unit and surrounding public and private lands.
- As needed, greenstrips will be seeded to reduce the threat and spread of wildfire.

Wood Products

Wood products are limited; however, harvest of wood products for firewood, fence posts or Christmas trees will be considered as a habitat management tool as needed.

Livestock Grazing Plan

Cattle grazing will be used a management tool to achieve desired habitat conditions. This unit has typically been grazed in the spring for 100 AUM's on a 3-year rotational basis, 2 years grazing followed by 1 year of rest. Stocking rates and season of use will be adjusted as needed to obtain desired habitat conditions. Grazing will be administered through a high intensity/short duration strategy with a grazing season of mid-May through June. Regional personnel will evaluate each property annually to determine grazing need on the unit. Permittees will be chosen according to the guidelines outlined in the Division's Land Use Rule (R657-28). Specific activities to improve the grazing program on the unit might include:

- Replace, rebuild and maintain UDWR/USFS boundary fences to control livestock
- Install cross fence near Hjorth Canyon to create north and south pastures
- Pursue water development opportunities which would assist with livestock distribution but not encourage big game to remain on winter ranges year round
- Install 0.35 miles of fence around wetland off of Highway 89 to prevent cattle grazing
- Enforce livestock trespass and trailing policy on the unit

Division personnel reserve the right to make changes to stocking rates, season of use, and the grazing schedule as needed. The Division also reserves the right to prescribe graze the unit if needed to reach habitat objectives. Prescribed grazing may result in permits being issued to a grazer outside of the competitive bid process in order to find willing parties.

Use of Surrounding Lands

The Lasson Draw unit lies within the CE-1 Critical Environment zone in Utah County, and the proposed activities contained in this plan are in accordance with this zoning designation.

VI. Summary Statement of Proposed Uses

The primary goals and objectives of the Lasson Draw unit are to preserve, enhance and protect big game winter range and wintering wildlife, and reduce deer and elk depredation on surrounding private lands. The Division will allow for and provide wildlife-related recreational activities which are consistent with the goals and purposes for which the property was acquired.

VII. Monitoring and Evaluation

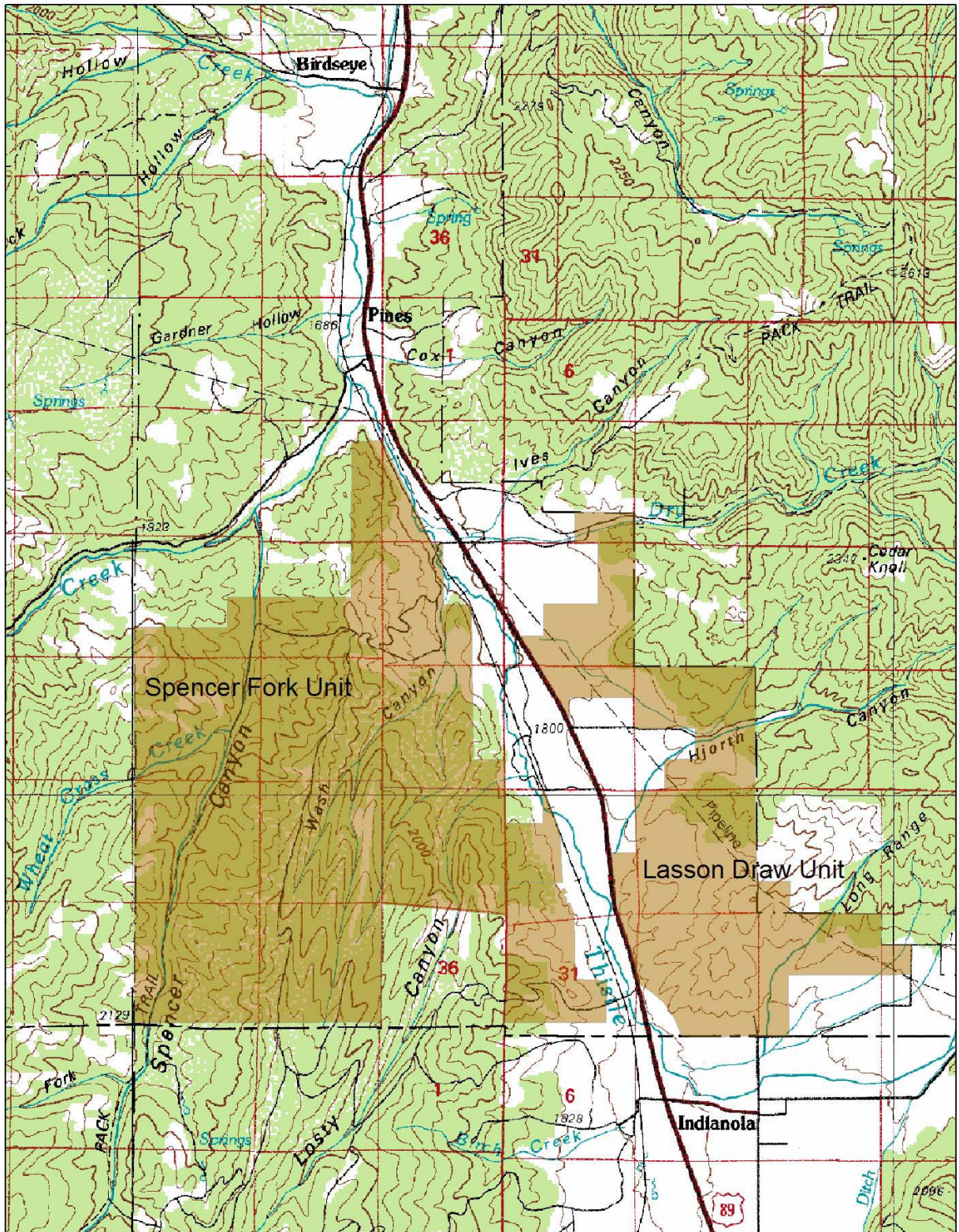
The Central Region Habitat Section, district wildlife biologist, and district conservation officer will be responsible for monitoring overall effectiveness of the program. Appropriate sections and staff will provide expertise as required. The habitat maintenance specialist will monitor the needs and effectiveness of physical facilities and improvements. If necessary, the district conservation officer will write or amend an action plan for the unit. All will report to the Regional Management Team through their supervisors. A regional team will amend this plan as needed.

VIII. Appendices

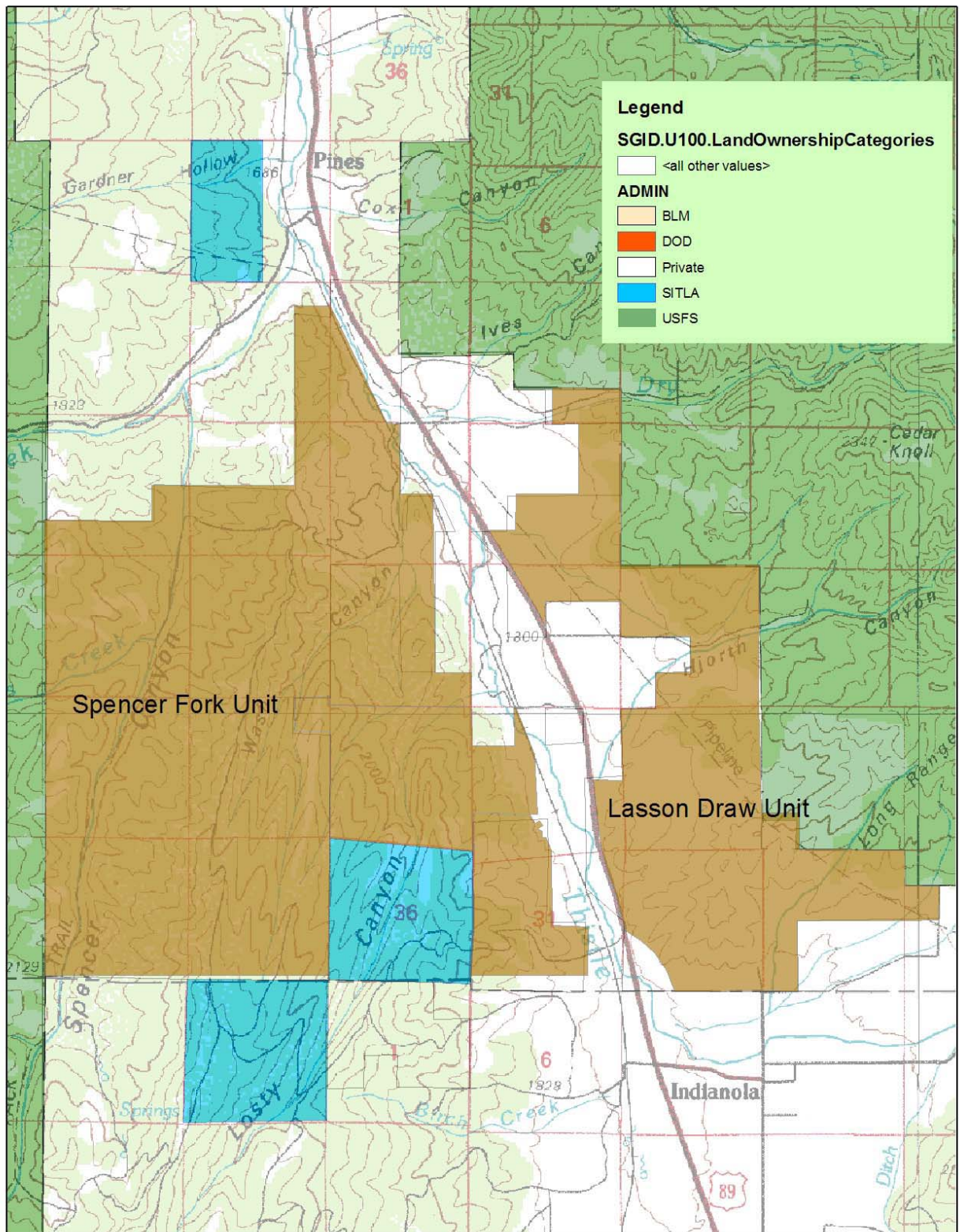
- Appendix A - Maps
 - General location (Map 1)
 - Surrounding land ownership (Map 2)
- Appendix B - Legal Description and Encumbrances
- Appendix C - Access Management Plan

Appendix A

Maps



Map 1. General Location of the Lasson Draw Unit.



Map 2. Land Ownership Surrounding the Lasson Draw Unit.

Appendix B

Legal Description and Encumbrances

Legal Description of Lasson Draw Unit,
including encumbrances attached to each deed

Warranty Deed 21510 (~1837 acres)

Township 11 South, Range 4 East

- Section 18 SE1/4 SW1/4; SW1/4 SE1/4 (~80 acres)
 - Section 19 N1/2 NE1/4 (~80 acres); that portion of E1/2 NW1/4 lying east of Hwy 89 (~40 acres)
 - Section 20 NW1/4; SE1/4; SE1/4 SW1/4; lots 1, 2, 3, 4 (~516.48 acres)
 - Section 28 SW1/4 SW1/4 (~40)
 - Section 29 All (640 acres)
 - Section 30 that portion of NW1/4 NE1/4 lying east of Hwy 89 (~0.74 acres)
 - Section 33 N1/2; W1/2 SW1/4 (~400 acres)
 - Section 34 SW1/4 NW1/4 (~40 acres)
- Together with all improvements thereon, and appurtenances and water rights thereon.

Encumbrances & Limitations:

All mineral, geothermal, oil and gas rights (excluding sand & gravel) and all rights of ingress and egress, subject to payment to Grantee for interference & damages to surface use.

All existing or recorded easements and rights of way, including trailing livestock for the Grantor, and the right to connect to the El Paso Natural Gas Pipeline.

Warranty Deed 35434 (~764 acres)

Township 11 South, Range 4 East

- Section 30 Lot 4; SE1/4 SW1/4 (~91.76 acres)
- Section 31 Lots 1, 2, 3, 4; E1/2 W1/2; W1/2 SE1/4; that portion of E1/2 NE1/4 lying east of Hwy 89 (~462.56 acres)
- Section 32 NW1/4 NW1/4; E1/2 SW1/4; that portion of SW1/4 NW1/4 lying east of Hwy 89; that portion of NW1/4 SW1/4 lying east of Hwy 89; that portion of SW1/4 SW1/4 lying east of Hwy 89, except for a described tract (~210 acres).

Together with all water and water rights appurtenant to the above lands.

Except 5.739 acres in Section 31 which was later removed from the warranty deed.

Encumbrances & Limitations:

All mineral, geothermal, oil and gas rights (excluding sand & gravel) and all rights of ingress and egress, subject to payment to DWR for interference & damages to surface use.

Warranty Deed 20342 (~400 acres)
Township 11 South, Range 4 East
Section 32 E1/2; E1/2 NW1/4 (~400 acres)

Together with all water rights appurtenant to the above lands.

Encumbrances & Limitations:

All mineral, oil and gas rights (excluding sand & gravel) and all rights of ingress and egress, retained by grantor, but DWR to be compensated for interference & damages to surface use.

Warranty Deed 475 (~307 acres)
Township 11 South, Range 4 East
Section 7 S1/2 SE1/2 (80-10=70 acres), excluding 10 acres (see encumbrances)
Section 18 Lots 5, 6, 7, and 8; NW1/4 SE1/4; NE1/4 SW1/4 (~237.3 acres)

Together with stock watering rights on the stream (Dry Ck).

Encumbrances & Limitations:

All mineral, geothermal, oil and gas rights (excluding sand & gravel) and all rights of ingress and egress, subject to payment to DWR for interference & damages to surface use. No water right other than stock watering rights, were conveyed as part of this purchase. Grantor & successors retain the right buy back a 10 acre parcel for constructing a reservoir anytime before Jan 1, 1995.

Appendix C

Access Management Plan

**Lasson Draw Unit
Northwest Manti Wildlife Management Area
Access Management Plan**

Purpose

To ensure that public use and access on the Lasson Draw unit is done in a manner that assists the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (Division) in achieving the goals and objectives outlined in the habitat management plan.

Background

The Lasson Draw unit was acquired under a federal aid grant to preserve and protect big game winter range and wintering animals. Much of this unit provides crucial winter range for mule deer and elk that lie within the Northwest Manti unit of the Central Mountains herd (unit 16B). In addition to providing crucial habitat for wintering big game, the Lasson Draw unit is also a popular recreation and hunting area for the public, which at times, results in conflicting activities and uses on the property. The access management plan will allow for public access and use of the unit while ensuring that wildlife and habitat management objectives are reached.

Road Designation

Roads are typically categorized as one of three types: Open, seasonally closed, or permanently closed.

Open Roads

These are roads that are left open year round due to agreements and/or established rights-of-way with counties, other agencies, and private landowners with inholdings to a Division property. Roads that do not occur within critical wintering areas and that do not result in habitat damage may also be left open year round.

Seasonally Closed Roads

These are roads that are closed from December 1st to April 30th each year and are not on established rights-of-way or under an agreement with another entity to be left open year round. The purpose of seasonally closed roads is to limit disturbance to wintering wildlife, protect sensitive and critical habitats, and prevent excessive road damage. All roads on the Lasson Draw unit fall under this category.

Permanently Closed Roads

These are roads that serve no purpose to managing wildlife or habitat, that fragment and damage habitat, or have been created without authorization from the Division. These roads will be closed using signs, berms, fencing, or other means. Where needed, roads may be ripped and seeded. Others will be closed and allowed to return to their natural state.

Due to the sensitive nature of wintering big game and their critical habitats, the Division will implement seasonal road closures on this unit. In addition, many roads and trails have been created on the WMA that serve no purpose in managing wildlife and result in habitat damage and trespass. These roads will be closed permanently. Permanent and seasonal road closures are done under the authority of Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife Resources rule R657-28.

Access to the WMA

A travel map is included below which shows the locations of authorized roads on the Lasson Draw unit. The map also includes the locations of several parking areas that have been constructed for use by the public. Most access to the unit originates off of Highway 89 between Birdseye and Indianola. These access points eventually lead to Dry Creek, Hjorth Canyon, Rocky Hollow and adjacent USFS lands on the east boundary of the property. Another access road on the south boundary leads to Long Ridge. As shown on the map, all of the access roads have a parking facility at the beginning and/or end of the road. **All roads or trails not shown on the map as being open seasonally or year round are considered unauthorized to motorized vehicles, and will be permanently closed by the Division.** The Lasson Draw unit will be seasonally closed from December 1st to April 30th to all forms of motorized traffic including OHV's and snowmobiles. The purpose of this seasonal closure is to minimize disturbance to wintering wildlife and reduce habitat damage. Motorized vehicles, including OHVs, are restricted to existing and designated roads (Utah Code Section 41-22-10.1) and this policy will be enforced. Harassment of wildlife or damage to the environment, including abuse of land, watershed, or impairment of plant or animal life while operating an OHV is illegal (Utah Code Section 41-22-13), and this policy will be enforced. The creation of new roads or trails by unauthorized motorized traffic is prohibited.

Where they exist, historic livestock trailing areas to and from adjacent Forest Service lands will be preserved. The Division will work cooperatively with livestock permittees to ensure that use of these trailing areas is consistent with their intended purpose.

The Division reserves the right to restrict any form of access and its associated activities, both motorized and non-motorized alike, if deemed incompatible with the goals and objectives outlined in the habitat management plan.

Enforcement of Access Management Plan

Enforcement of this plan will be carried out primarily by Division personnel, although other local law enforcement agencies will also have jurisdiction.

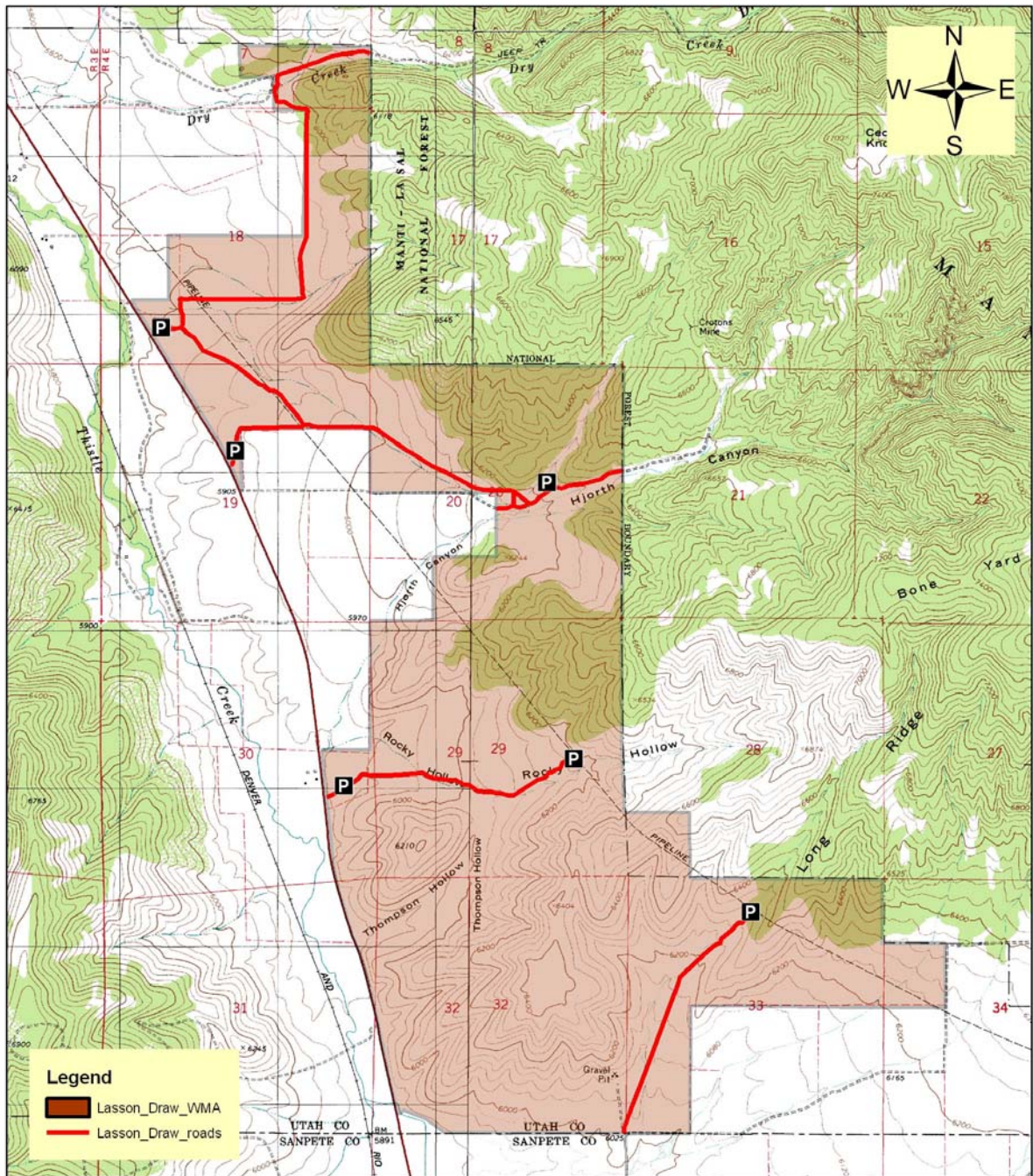
Informing the Public

Division personnel will inform the public of the access plan by adequately signing access points, roads and trails, parking areas, and fencelines. Seasonal closures or other issues relating to access will also be included in hunting proclamations that are published

annually by the Division.

The Division will work with local municipalities, the county, and other state and federal agencies to coordinate access and travel plans that are consistent with other planning efforts as long as these plans are consistent with the objectives and goals of the Lasson Draw unit. The access management plan will be reviewed and changes made as needed.

Lasson Draw WMA Access Map



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